

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 18377 041529Z
ACTION SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2311
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JCS WASH DC

S E C R E T CAIRO 18377

STATE FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER, UNDER SECRETARY
BENSON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS FROM AMBASSADOR
SECDEF FOR SECRETARY BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS EG US

SUBJECT: SIGNING OF F-5 CONTRACT

1. YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, AS A RESULT OF EFFORTS OF ERIC
VON MARBOD AND DAO PERSONNEL, LOA FOR F-5 SALE WAS
SIGNED. SIGNING MARKS THE BEGINNING OF SIGNIFICANT AD-
DITIONAL DIMENSION, NAMELY A MILITARY DNE, TO THE NEW
AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH EGYPT THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE
TO FORGE THESE LAST FOUR AND ONE HALF YEARS. IF IT IS
TO CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO OUR OVERALL RELATIONSHIP,
IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE IMPLEMENT FULLY AND ON TIME THE
DELIVERY, TRAINING AND SUPPORT COMMITMENTS THAT WE HAVE
MADE TO THE GOE IN THAT LOA.

2. I KNOW THAT THERE IS EVERY INTENTION TO DO SO.
HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN
SAUDI ARABIA AND ELSEWHERE, I ALSO KNOW THAT THERE IS
SOMETIMES A TENDENCY FOR THINGS TO SLIP WHEN THEY GET
DOWN TO THE BUREAUCRACY, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE INITIAL
ENTHUSIASM WEARS OFF AND MATTERS ARE SEEN AS ROUTINE.

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I HOPE THAT HIGH LEVEL DOD AND USAF MONITORING WILL BE
ARRANGED IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT IT IS UNDERSTOOD BY ALL
INVOLVED ELEMENTS ON A CONTINUING BASIS THAT THE USG
ATTACHES HIGH IMPORTANCE TO THE QUALITATIVE PERFORMANCE
OF OUR PROGRAM UNDERTAKINGS TO THE EGYPTIANS.

3. I REGRET TO SAY THAT THE EGYPTIANS ARE NOT ENTIRELY
HAPPY WITH THE SUPPORT ASPECTS OF OUR INITIAL C-130

PROGRAM. THEY HAVE STRESSED TO US THAT THEY EXPECT THE F-5 PROGRAM TO WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY AND THAT THE C-130 PROGRAM, BOTH PAST AND PRESENT, BE BROUGHT UP TO SNUFF. THEIR COMMENTS ARE ONLY PARTIALLY JUSTIFIED, SINCE THEY TOO SHARE THE BLAME RE C-130 PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO ENGINE USE. FACT IS, HOWEVER, THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO DO BETTER WITH F-5'S AND C-130'S IN THE FUTURE THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE WITH THE FIRST SIX C-130'S.

4. AT SIGNING CEREMONY, GENERAL GAMASY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO THE EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF THE "OFFICE OF MILITARY COOPERATION" (OMC). I CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT IT BE HEADED BY A GENERAL OFFICER IN ORDER TO GIVE IT THE CLOUT THAT IT NEEDS WITH WHAT CAN SOMETIMES BE CANTANKEROUS EAF OFFICERS AND ON WASHINGTON SIDE. I DISCUSSED THIS WITH LTG GRAVES AND UNDERSTAND DOD IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE IDEA. I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN TOLD THAT PLAN IS TO SHIFT BG PFAUTZ, CURRENTLY DATT/CAIRO, TO HEAD THE OMC POSITION HERE. IF SO, THIS IS AGREEABLE TO ME AND I THINK PFAUTZ WILL DO AN EXCELLENT JOB. IT IS DESIRABLE THAT THIS SLOT BE FILLED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

5. I AM VERY AWARE THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE F-5 AND C-130 PROGRAMS, WHICH BOTH WE AND EGYPTIANS WANT, WILL
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DEPEND UPON CONTINUED CLOSE COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING BY BOTH SIDES. I AM DETERMINED TO MAKE THESE PROGRAMS MODELS OF WHAT CAN BE DONE AND WILL DO ALL IN MY POWER TO ACHIEVE THIS. EILTS

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